

# Soldier for Whom McKinlock Campus Was Named Slain by Boche Sniper 18 Years Ago



*McKinlock Campus Memorial Gates*

WHILE most of Northwestern's evening students enter the campus via the massive portals of Wieboldt Hall—home of the School of Commerce—the formal entrance of the 14-acre university yard is at the northwest corner of Lake Shore drive and Superior street. At that spot two beautiful iron gates grace the end of the walk leading to Thorne auditorium.

Close observation reveals that the stately gates contain the McKinlock coat of arms, the Rappleye coat of arms of Mrs. McKinlock's family, the coat of arms of Northwestern University, Harvard University, and St. Mark's preparatory school. Also appearing gracefully interwoven in the delicately wrought gates is a reproduction of the distinguished service cross awarded young Alex McKinlock—for whom the campus was named—together with war department and general orders in connection with the awarding of the cross.

The Alexander McKinlock memorial campus became a reality in 1926 when Wieboldt Hall first swung wide its doors and bid those seeking higher educational advantages enter. But long before the overt creation of this initial structure, sage planning had been going on in the minds of various men who could see possibilities of creating an institution inviting to the eye and mind on this site where only Streeterville wasteland had before existed.

The initial step was taken by Mr. and Mrs. George McKinlock, who in cherished memory of their son—killed in the great war—donated

\$250,000 toward the purchase in 1921 of land, the "deestric" once presided over by Cap'n George Wellington Streeter and wife, Maria Streeter, in their beached craft, the *Reutan*. The ground at one time viewed as of small value is now in the Gold Coast of Chicago.

The man in whose memory the campus rears as a tremendous monument was born in Chicago, May 16, 1898. When seventeen years old young McKinlock entered St. Mark's school at Southborough, Mass. In 1912 he went to Harvard. Among other things at the Crimson institution, he made a name for himself on the football field playing regularly on the varsity. After receiving his degree in 1916 he returned to Chicago and became associated with his father in the Central Electric company.

When the United States entered the world war, McKinlock entered the Reserve Officers' Training Corp at Fort Sheridan. By August, 1917, he had completed his training period and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the cavalry. A month later he was riding the high seas aboard the *Kroonland*, France to be his destination.

At Gondrecourt he was further schooled in the craft of warfare and in February, 1918, appointed intelligence and liaison officer on the staff of Major Davis, second brigade, third machine gun battalion, first division. In June, 1918, General Buck selected him as intelligence officer on his staff. In this capacity he participated in the Cantigny and the Marne-Aisne offensives. One month later, the Chi-

cagoan took part in the four day battle which finally ended July 21, 1918 with the Allies taking Berzy-le-Sec, just south of Soissons. An hour after the capture of the town, young McKinlock was instructed to go forward and determine the position of the front line trenches. On his way he met French officers on a similar mission. It was when he started on an independent tack, with the roar of battle not yet stilled, that he was felled. A Boche sniper with deadly aim singled him out.

"He showed noble disregard of self and devotion to duty by traversing the front lines for information necessary in connection with his work as intelligence officer, and while fearlessly performing this work was killed."

So reads the citation in connection with the award of the distinguished service cross to Alex McKinlock.

For his extraordinary bravery he was also given the *croix de guerre* with palms, and a recommendation that he be rewarded with the distinguished service cross a second time. The citation for the posthumous award of the D.S.C. read as follows:

"For exceptional gallantry under heavy artillery bombardment and severe machine gun fire along the front lines near Berzy-le-Sec to verify the position reports of the advanced location of the front lines, and was killed while so doing."

Young McKinlock had been recommended for a captaincy but met his death before the recommendation could be acted upon.